

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – FLINT
REGENTS COMUNICATION**

**Approved by the Regents
January 20, 2011**

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: Master of Public Health at the University of Michigan-Flint

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to grant the Master of Public Health Degree (MPH) through the School of Health Professions and Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 2011

The School of Health Professions and Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint proposes to offer a Master of Public Health degree (MPH). The proposed graduate program is designed to address the needs of individuals who aim to promote and protect the health and well being of human populations as public health professionals and enable students to excel in their chosen careers in the medical profession as both participants and leaders in the field. The proposed program responds to strong national and global demands.

A 2009 comprehensive needs assessment of national public health trends and health status indicators of the Flint population documents the need for this proposed graduate degree. The Master of Public Health degree is experiencing increased demand throughout the world as the need and expectation for high quality public health services continue to grow. With the passage of national health care reform, the demand for research and development of health programs will dramatically increase. The offering of health care throughout the nation will conceptually change for all aspects of health care including careers in both the public and private sectors.

The primary audience for this degree will include a broad population of graduates from doctoral professional programs, baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate programs. Those students anticipated to find an interest in the MPH program would include recent college graduates with at least a bachelor degree; students currently enrolled in a professional program (e.g. medical, nursing or law degree program) who wish to earn an additional degree in public health; practicing health professionals working in healthcare settings, health insurance agencies, government agencies, community health organizations, academic institutions, and the pharmaceutical industry. The online component proposed for this program will provide access to students who would be otherwise unable to attend an on-campus program.

The minimum three-year part-time program design of this program consists of a minimum of 42 semester graduate credit hours including the fulfillment of both certificate courses through the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and the UM-Flint component. The five core disciplines of academic public health that are required of all CEPH accredited schools are: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health sciences, health services administration, and social and behavioral sciences. The core areas will be offered in conjunction with the UM-AA Certificate in Public Health via online modality. The UM-Flint MPH program students will obtain admission to the UM-AA certificate program before enrollment into the UM-Flint courses (online or on-campus) through the Department of Public Health and Health Sciences at UM-Flint for obtaining a UM-Flint degree. It is anticipated that students will enroll concurrently by taking one certificate course and one UM-Flint course.

Statistics show us that not only is there a high demand for public health professionals in the Flint and Genesee geographic region, but the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) indicate that there were 50,000 fewer public health employees in 2000 than in 1980. There are fewer workers and resources than are needed to meet the needs of the human population and the public health crisis and will worsen as the current workforce nears retirement.

The proposed Master of Public Health degree (MPH) has been thoroughly reviewed and supported by the University of Michigan Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, School of Health Professions and Studies, Graduate Programs, Academic Affairs Advisory Committee, Chancellor's Advisory Committee for Budget and Strategic Planning, Academic Assessment Committee, the provost and chancellor. The program will be implemented upon approval from the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan, pending the Board of Regents approval.

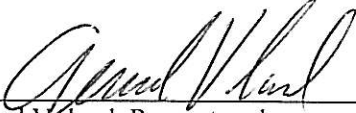
Based upon the extensive research and plans that have been completed, the University of Michigan-Flint requests approval to grant the Master of Public Health degree (MPH) through the School of Health Professions and Studies at the University of Michigan-Flint, effective February 1, 2011.

RECOMMENDED BY:

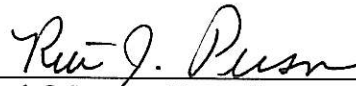


Vahid Lotfi, Associate Provost and
Dean of Graduate Programs

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:



Gerard Yoland, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Ruth J. Person, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

January 2011